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TUESDAY
JUNE 22, 1954

I went to see Lee Van Starkenborgh at his new offices at 64, Rue de Varenne this morning. He told me Beyen had agreed to Mr. Spaak's suggested calling of a meeting of the four signatory countries, to be attended also by the Foreign Ministers of France and Italy. He showed me the text, which I thought excellent. Bech, Spaak and Beyen are to meet in Luxembourg today and consider this matter further. Lee pronounced himself, as he always has in the past, totally unwilling to consider any changes the French Government or Parliament might suggest to the present text. He said it had been approved by four Parliaments after prolonged discussion, and the French have no right to reopen these questions. His own Government and Parliament would bitterly resent such an insulting procedure and have no intention of following any whimsies dictated by domestic political considerations in France.

Preston Grover came to see me. He has been commissioned by the AP to write three articles on the decline of France as a great power. I suggested, for his African background, the possibility of his discussing France's position on that continent with Bert Jolis, and arranged with Bert for the two to lunch together today.

I met André de Staercke in the street. He said everything had to date gone [redacted] well with Mr. Spaak's proposal, and he hoped to have further encouraging news for us tonight or tomorrow morning.

John Hughes and I lunched together at the Travellers', and he advised me of what had occurred during his recent conferences in Washington.

Afterwards I went to see Jean Monnet at 83, Avenue Foch. He is still in bed but seems to be recovering slowly from his grippe. Spaak had been in touch with him and he is to have a further telephone conversation with Spaak tonight on the project [redacted] now being elaborated by the Benelux countries.

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Cy Sulzberger came to the office and I told him my reasons for believing the American Government must hold firm on its European policy.

We had a large cocktail party at the house tonight to which we [redacted] asked 850 people. I must say I thoroughly enjoyed it. From the amount of hand-shaking, I would judge that [redacted] few failed to come.

We left after the guests had departed, at 9:00 o'clock, for Versailles, where we spent the night.

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